

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 699

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to commend F. Miles Ezell, Jr. for his honorable legacy of service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, F. Miles Ezell, Jr. is one such noteworthy individual who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Mr. Ezell graduated from Donelson High School; he attended David Lipscomb College and played basketball there for two years before transferring to Ohio State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Technology; and

WHEREAS, from 1945 until 1946, Mr. Ezell served as an Electronics Technician in the United States Navy and thus holds a respected position among those gallant men and women who, throughout American history, have defended our nation and our freedom; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, F. Miles Ezell, Jr. joined Purity Dairies, Inc., and since that time, he has served the company as Treasurer, President, Chairman, and Sr. Chairman, leading it to unprecedented prosperity; and

WHEREAS, highly respected as a leader in his profession, he has served as President of the Tennessee Dairy Products Association and as Chairman of the Board of the Milk Industry Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Ohio State University College of Agriculture presented Mr. Ezell with its Distinguished Alumni Award; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his remarkable professional excellence, Mr. Ezell has long devoted considerable time, talent, and resources to assisting his fellow man, and his contributions to countless organizations, individuals, and causes have been invaluable; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has lent his wisdom and expertise as a President of Youth Encouragement Service Hobby Shop, as a Charter Member and Chairman of the Board of AGAPE, as a member of the Metro Nashville Human Relations Commissions, as Chairman of the Board of the Charlotte Fanning Foundation, and as Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, he has also served on the Boards of AmSouth Bank, First American Bank, the Washington Foundation, and the Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, for many years, F. Miles Ezell has been one of the most dedicated supporters of Lipscomb University, and many of the school's successes and improvements can be traced to his tireless efforts; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Board of Lipscomb University since 1980, he served as Chairman from 1991 until 1997; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Mr. Ezell was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Nashville Chapter of Fund Raising Executives; and

WHEREAS, in honoring him, the organization's leadership remarked, "Miles Ezell certainly exemplifies the spirit of philanthropy in Nashville. His long-time personal contributions to non-profit organizations in our city are an inspiring example of the difference that philanthropy can make to our community and in individual lives"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Ezell has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ezell's remarkable success as civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of diligence and dedication and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is a an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated community servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. Ezell is dedicated to maintaining the highest ideals of family values and is deeply devoted to his family; his marriage of forty-seven years to the late Gerry Rader produced four cherished children, Mila McDonald, Stan Ezell, Mark Ezell, and Gil Ezell, who have all experienced great success in their various endeavors; and

WHEREAS, he is also the proud and loving grandfather of thirteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ezell is most grateful for the love and companionship he has shared with his wife, the former Linda McConville, since they were joined in holy matrimony in 1996; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Mr. Ezell is an active member of his church and served as an Elder of Una Church of Christ for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, F. Miles Ezell, Jr. is wholly committed to the noble precepts of service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend F. Miles Ezell, Jr. for his remarkable legacy of

service to the people of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express to him our fondest wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.